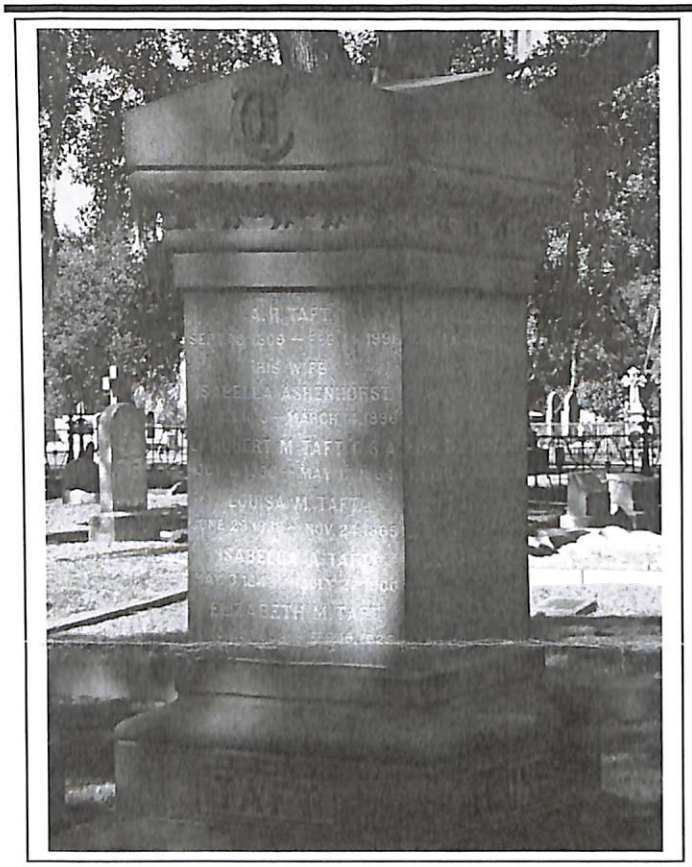
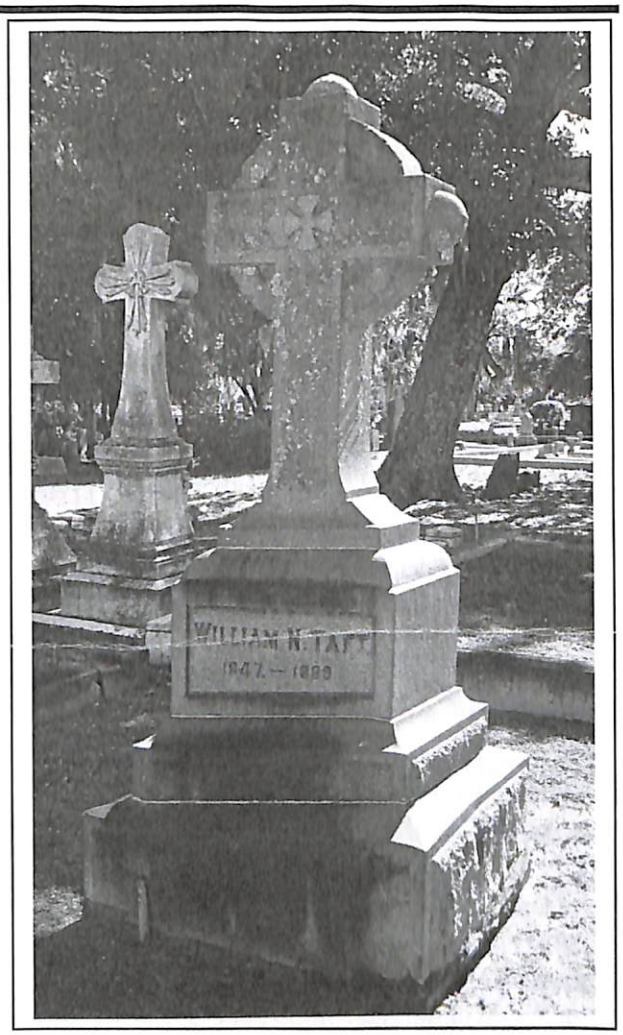
TAFT TALK

No. 59 *Newsletter of the Taft Family Association* **Dec 2010**





Magnolia Cemetery, Charleston, SC Taft markers:
Above: A. R. (Augustus Richardson) Taft; Isabella (Ashenhurst) Taft,;Robert M. Taft; Louisa M Taft, Isabella A Taft, Elizabeth M. Taft; Pierre Gaillard Stoney; Anna Spring (Taft) Stoney; Pierre Gaillard Stoney; Louisa Thayer Stoney; Isabella A Stoney
To the right: William N. Taft

A sense of time, a sense of place and a sense of duty

While in Charleston, SC recently I went to Magnolia Cemetery to find the Taft gravesites that were there. Interestingly enough both the Benjamin and Daniel lines were represented, their plots in the same section of the cemetery, and each had soldiers who served in the Civil War, albeit on opposite sides. How interesting to contemplate life after the "War of Yankee Aggression" in Charleston when the families must have known each other in their political and social aspects of daily life.

The Benjamin Taft line was represented by William Nelson Taft (and Henry Spurr Tafft who arrived during the War and remained in nearby Beaufort area for several years but then returned north); and the Daniel line by two sons of Augustus Richardson Taft: Augustus Walton Taft and Robert Martin Taft, as well as his son-in-law Pierre Gaillard (pronounced Gilliard) Stoney.

For Augustus Walton and Robert Martin Taft see p 3 for William Nelson Taft see p 6

TEXAS

Member Marsden Champaign writes: Of particular interest (in a recent TTT) was the item about Taft, TX and wind power as my wife Bobbie is from Sinton and we lived there for several years. Sinton is 8 miles from Taft and is named for David Sinton who was the father of Annie Sinton Taft who was the wife of President Taft's brother, Charles Phelps Taft. David Sinton financed William Howard Taft's presidential bid. As a descendant of Jesse and Sabra (Aldrich) Taft I was also interested in the item on p 4 concerning the Stephen James Taft puzzle – Jesse and Sabra were my gt-gt-gt grandparents.

Thanks for writing Marsden.

TAXES, not Texas .... Help!

It has come to our attention that tax returns have not been filed for many years by the Association based on the understanding that we were a tax-exempt organization. Recently we set up a new bank account and had to reactivate our IRS number, discovered we are unknown to Mass. DOR, and learned that we are no longer considered tax-exempt because our bylaws apparently indicate that membership has a specific definition: "The membership of this Association shall be composed of those who are descendants of the above-mentioned Robert & Sarah Taft, Matthew & Anna Taft who settled later in Upton, Mass. and such other persons, whether related by blood or not, as have an interest in the objectives of this organization." Sounds open to us…

Is there a lawyer or individual with expertise in non-profit status who would like to take this on as a project? If so contact Pat Allen at patallen7@verizon.net.

In Memoriam

Gladys Taft sent us information from the Gowanda (NY) Pennysaver/News of 20 Jun 2010 on Taft relatives who have died recently. Our condolences and best wishes go out to the entire family.

Vern S. Taft, 92, of Eden died 13 Jun 2010. Vern Taft, born 13 Feb 1918, the son of Martin Loomis and Gertrude Taft (4 Mar 1885 – 15 Apr 1945), was the husband of Doris (Mesch) Taft; father of Patty Estrada; brother of the late Earl and Roy Taft; and was also survived by two grandchildren. Gladys notes that "Martin's father was Levi (1836-1910) and son of Phineas, who died in 1864. That's as far back as I can go. Perhaps someone knows, or could help going back farther. My late husband, Earl, and Vern were half brothers – Vern being much older." (Editor's note: Vern S. Taft was the son of Martin Loomis (Levi A, Phineas, Levi, Silas, Benjamin, Robert) Taft.

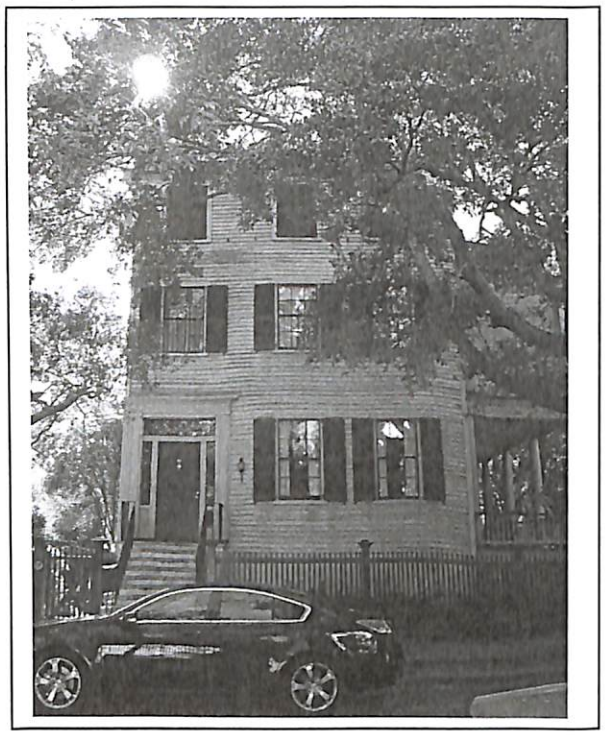
Dr James W Taft, 95, of Wilsonville, OR, formerly of Cattaraugus and Little Valley, NY died on 26 May 2010 after a brief illness. Born 14 Jan 1915 in Cattaraugus, Dr. Taft was the son of Raymond B. Taft and Madge Holbrook Taft. He graduated from Cattaraugus Central School in 1931, the University of Arkansas in 1938, and the University at Buffalo Medical School (UB) in 1943. While there, he met Margaret Campbell Roth, a medical technologist in the school's lab. They were married 17 Aug 1940 and spent over 58 years together until her death in 1999.

At UB he served as an instructor in anatomy, was a member of the Medical Honorary Society Alpha Omega Alpha and a member and president of the Gibson Anatomical Society. Having enlisted in the Naval Reserves the day after Pearl Harbor, Dr. Taft was commissioned as a Naval Medical Officer upon graduation and served his medical internship at Bethesda Naval Hospital. In 1944 he was assigned to the destroyer USS Waller as ship's doctor and saw extensive action in the Pacific Theater, including the battles of Saipan and Leyte Gulf and the occupation of Japanese garrisons near Shanghai, China. After the war he served at Sampson, NY and Norfolk, VA Naval hospitals. Following his discharge in 1947, Dr Taft established a private medical practice in Little Valley, NY. For over 21 years he served the community as general practitioner, obstetrician and anesthesiologist. In 1969 he moved his practice to Medford, OR and in 1988 to Wilsonville, OR.

Jim Taft was well known for his love of music, having been a professional trumpet player for many years, starting in his teens. He was also an accomplished guitarist and pianist.

Dr. Taft is survived by seven of his children and their families: James, Gretchen, Nathan, Benjamin and Jennifer Taft; M. Jessica Taft; Martin, Linda and Jeffery Taft and Marjorie Burkhart; Richard, Karen, Joshua and Erin Taft; Barbara, James and Kelly McKenna; Alan Taft and Annie Dudley; John, Katy, Bethany and Brandon Taft, and Clyde, Emily and Timothy Ishida. He is also survived by eight gt-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Besides his wife he was pre-deceased by his daughter Mary Taft Ishida, his brother Robert Taft, and his sisters Margaret Ewing and Helen Tompson.

James W Taft was the son of Raymond Botsford (Walter H., Farnham/Farnum, Levi, Levi, Silas, Benjamin, Robert) Taft.



57 Laurens St, Ansonborough District, Charleston, SC

The A. R. Taft house constructed about 1836 was restored in the 1970s. "This three-story town house is a good example of early-Greek Revival style in the emerging Charleston interpretation. The dwelling is built of black cypress and exhibits little ornamentation on its exterior save the simple Greek key motif in the pilasters of its door architrave and the fine marble staircase approaching it. The house retains much of its original interior, including black marble mantels, plaster cornices, and ceiling medallions in its downstairs double parlors. The site includes a three story brick kitchen and quarters at the rear, built after the fire of 1838 (which narrowly missed this house) and a notable garden on the west side, occupying an additional lot that has always been part of the property. although the black cypress siding is very durable, it has been painted in the past and is currently coated with a stain. The builder's daughter married Pierre Gaillard Stoney, and the house remained in their family for over a century, except for a six month period in 1865 when it was confiscated by the Freedman's bureau to provide housing for freed slaves". *(source: The Buildings of Charleston: a Guide to the City's Architecture by Jonathan H Poston, Historic Charleston Foundation)*

Photo by Pat Allen

Daniel Line through Augustus Richardson Taft (from page 1)

Augustus Richardson Taft was born 18 Sep 1809 in Uxbridge, MA (VR 149), the son of Bezaleel Jr and Margaret Stoddard (Spring) Taft, and died 14 Feb 1891 in Charleston, SC of exhaustion, having had a stroke about six years before (SCVR 0002887). He married 22 Dec 1835 in Charleston, SC Isabella Ashenhurst, born 1 Apr 1815 Belfast, IRE and died 14 Mar 1896 in Charleston, SC of scerous apoplexy (SCVR 000346). Augustus Richardson and Isabella (Ashenhurst) Taft had six children: Robert Martin Taft, Louisa Margaret Taft, Augustus Walton Taft, Isabella Ashenhurst "Bella" Taft, Elizabeth Miller "Bessie" Taft, and Anna Spring Taft. A. R. Taft moved to Charleston in the early 1830s to represent his family as a partner in their cotton business. His house at 57 Laurens St. in downtown Charleston was built around 1836 (see above). Two of his sons served in the Civil War.

Lt. Robert Martin Taft was born 6 Oct 1836 in Charleston, SC and died 17 May 1864 of wounds received in the Battle of Drewrys Bluff near Richmond, VA, buried in Magnolia Cemetery. He was a graduate of the College of Charleston class of 1856, Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He enlisted as a sergeant in Co. B, 25th SC Infantry, and was commissioned a Lieutenant.

The Civil War Diary of General Josiah Gorgas (p 104-105) records the following *(www.civilwarartillery.com/books/jgorgas1)*:

> "May 17th. Our losses yesterday were quite heavy, amounting, I fear, to quite two thousand in killed, wounded and missing. It was Barton's Brigade (commanded by General Fry) which it seems suffered chiefly. Hagood's (S.C.) also lost heavily, eighteen men being killed in one company. We captured quite fifteen hundred prisoners, and five pieces of artillery-one regiment from Springfield, Mass., commanded by a Colonel Lee was captured almost entire. The enemy have fallen back to their lines extending from the James River to the Appomattox, about three miles long, strongly defended, and, of course, supported by the gunboats. It is rumored tonight that they are crossing some troops to the north side below Chaffin's Farm, communicating, no doubt, with Sheridan, whose cavalry is still about Malvern Hills.
>
> "May 20th. One of the victims of the fight of Monday lies in our house-Lieutenant Robert M. Taft, of Charleston. The poor fellow, whose family we know very well, sent for me on Tuesday at noon, but, owing to some stupidity, I did not receive the message until late at night, after his death. It will be a sad blow to his poor mother who is a very fond mother."

Sgt. Augustus Walton Taft was born 31 Jul 1844 in Charleston, SC and died 5 Feb 1907 in Charleston, SC of a cerebral hemorrhage and paralysis (SCVR 000147). He married 16 Apr 1873 in Barnwell, SC Mary Julianna "Julia" Bellinger, born 23 Nov 1850 in Barnwell, SC, the daughter of Edmund and Columbia Elizabeth Woodruff (Allen) Bellinger, and died 4 Mar 1922 in Ridgeway, Fairfield, SC of softening of the brain (SCVR 003740). They had seven children: Augustus Robert Taft, Eleanor Bellinger Taft, Louisa Margaret Taft, child Taft, Rosa Woodruff Taft, Daughter Taft, and Lewis Spring Taft.

SeeDaniel line cont p. 5

Neil and Leslie ... Two John Guy Tafts ... but exactly where do they fit in?

Member Leslie Skibinski responded to Historian Neil Todd's post on RootWeb with the following information and research:

Neil: The ancestry of the John Guy Taft who was b. in 1843 was John Henry[7] Taft (Benedict[6] Mijamin[5] Nathan[4] Mijamin[3] Benjamin[2] Robert[1]). He and Elizabeth had children William E., Herbert O., John G. and Annie E. I suspect the place that he d. was Hickory (not Hockery). Do you happen to have a death record and/or obituary for him?

John Guy Taft (we in the family call him the Younger) was born in Endeavor (then Stowtown) PA on 1 Dec 1869. He was the son of Stephen Taft and Sarah (Hillard) Taft. He married Louise Arlene Weurtzgy (Wortzkey) on 17 Mar 1894. They were the parents of 7 children, 5 of whom survived. The children are: Agnes Bernice, Hazel Beatrice, Leslie Stephen, Herman Joseph and Donald Edward. He died of pernicious anaemeia on 4 Oct 1921 at the age of 52. He left behind 2 brothers, William of Bradford, PA and Herbert of Endeavor, PA as well as a sister, Anna (Taft) Atwell of Aberdeen, WA.

My grandfather was his son Herman Joseph Taft.

John Guy Taft (in the family we call him the Elder) was born in New York about 1843 and died in 1920. He married Elizabeth Kiffer (1854-1928). They had at least 4 children: Effie A., Benjamin, Phoebe G.? and June E. John Guy (the Elder) was a brother of Stephen and an uncle to John Guy (the Younger). John Guy (the Elder) and Stephen moved to East Hickory together and lived very close to each other.

I believe that John Guy (the Elder) and Stephen were the sons of James Taft of Addison, Steuben Co., New York.

In the US Census of 1840 there is a head of household named James Taft. His family consists of: 1 male 30-39 (If James, he was 31), 1 female 20-29 (If Anna, she was 28), 1 female 5-9 (If Sally, she was 5), 2 females under 5 (If Phebe and Sally, age 3 and 1 respectively)

The 1850 Census record for Addison, Steuben Co., NY has an entry for the James Taft family: James 41, Anna 38, Sally 15 Phebe 13, Polly A. 11, Stephen 9, John 7, Mary E. 5, Clarisa 2, James W. 1

The 1860 Census for Addison, Steuben Co., NY has an entry for James Taft: James 51, Anna 48, Polly A. 21, Stephen A. 19 , John G. 17, Mary E. 15, Clarissa 13, James H. 10 Francis 5

The census records indicate that James was born in RI in ca 1809. I believe that he may be the descendant of Robert through this line though I haven't found proof yet: Mijamin[5], Nathan[4], Mijamin[3], Benjamin[2], Robert[1]

I base this on some circumstantial evidence and would like to find some better support. The evidence I have is that Mijamin[5] had numerous children including a James born ca 1803 in ?Glocester, RI. Several other children include Sally, Polly and Stephen. The James that I feel is the father of John Guy (the Elder) has children named Sally, Polly and Stephen. If you have any other information about this line of the family I would appreciate it. Leslie Skibinski lskibinski@verizon.net

Editor's note: We find the NY 1855 Census for Addison, Steuben lists James Henry 46 b Chenango, Anna 43 b Steuben, Sally - -, Phebe 18, Polly A 16, Stephen A 14, John G 12, Mary E 10. The 1865 Census for Addison, Steuben lists James H 56 RI, Amy/Anna 53 b Chenango, John G 22 b Steuben, Mary A 20 b Steuben, Clarisa 17 b Steuben, James H 15 b Steuben, Francis A 10 b Steuben, Martha A 2-3/4, plus two boarders.

Perhaps "James Henry" Taft rather than "John Henry" Taft is the son of Benedict. In 1850 James is listed as born in NY, in 1855 James Henry born in Chenango, NY, in 1860 James born in RI and in 1865 James H born in RI. Thus perhaps the line is James Henry{7], Benedict[6], Mijamin[5], Nathan[4], Mijamin[3], Benjamin[2], Robert[1] Taft.

We would love to hear from you – photos, stories, you name it, we are interested.

And better yet how about writing an article for this newsletter – no financial reward but lots of good will!

HOW CAN WE BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO YOUR NEEDS?

Please fill out the enclosed survey and return it to us (the postage is included). Don't delay.

Daniel Line through Augustus Richardson Taft *cont from p 3*

Augustus Walton Taft enlisted as a private in Co. B, 25th SC Infantry Regiment, attended the SC Military Academy, and was appointed to the Signal Corps as a Sergeant in 1863. He served at Charleston and Wilmington and with the Army of TN and was surrendered at Greensboro in Apr 1865. A. W. Taft was part of the Washington Light Infantry (WLI) of Charleston, and after the war was an officer of the WLI Charitable Association, elected Junior Warden in 1872 and 1873.
(genforum.com/taft/messages/430 from David Winfred Gaddy 2 Jul 2000) (Southern Historical Society Papers vol xxxi Richmond, VA Jan – Dec 1903 re the Washington Light Infantry 1807-1861 of Charleston, SC).

Augustus Walton Taft was a member of A. R. Taft and Co, cotton merchants. He later served on the Charleston Board of Harbor Commissioners; New England Society; St. Cecelia Society; Washington Light Infantry; Strict Observance Lodge, past master; Charleston Public Works Board; member of the Executive Relief Committee for the Charleston Earthquake, 1886; and a member of St. Paul's Church.

On 1 May 1897 A. W. Taft was asked to give an address at Camp Sumpter concerning the signal corps (see TTT 49 In which Lt. Col. Henry Spurr Tafftt made a similar talk from the union side to the GAR; and note again that he was living on St. Helena's Island, Beaufort, SC during the 1870s as well) in which he made a tribute to "Their Arduous and Invaluable Services During the War:"

"… being the senior officer of that body connected with your camp… members of the Signal Corps, although only detailed men, were held in such esteem that to them were always extended the honors due to commissioned officers… I cannot but recognize the fact that by many of those, who, with musket on shoulder or sabre by side, bore the heat and burden of many a hard fought battle, we are classed among those non-combatants, who, occupying what were termed "bomb-proof" positions, would now pose as veterans, and how can I better use the limited space… allotted to me than by bringing to your attention certain facts that may tend to remove that erroneous impression?

The members of the Signal Corps…were assigned to duty at the various stations at which their services would be most valuable, some comparatively free from danger, while others were exposed and dangerous… You have passed a highly merited eulogy on our lamented Comrade Thomas Huguenin, whose highest honor is that he commanded at Fort Sumter, but let me call to your attention the fact that three members of the Signal Corps were constantly there on duty, sharing… the dangers and trials… By their side the signal officer stood, and beneath crumbling wall and the midst of bursting shells, with flag in hand by day and torch by night, they sent to this seemingly doomed city the glad tidings: "Fort Sumpter still holds out." When you honor the memories of those heroes, who for their country, gave up their lives…

Are there any whom you hold in higher esteem than the officers and men of the navy? Do not forget the fact that two members of the Signal Corps, stationed on each iron-clad, stood ready at all times to share the dangers of the gallant Ingraham, Tucker and their men. Again, on Morris Island we find the Signal Corps, and on them devolved the duty of keeping that brave garrison in communication with the outer world. You who, like myself, experienced the dangers and trials of that siege, can indeed appreciate their services, and testify to the bravery and coolness with which the members of the Signal Corps there bore themselves in the midst of dangers that caused the bravest to tremble, standing nobly at their post, and only leaving the island with the rear guard, at the evacuation.

There were also members of the corps who did even more valuable service to our cause. I refer to those who day and night read the signals as they passed from station to station of the United States Army and Navy. To them we owe the preservation of Sumter, Johnson, Gregg and Wagner, on several occasions, those forts being forewarned of attacks to be made, and consequently prepared to resist the same. I have so far spoken only of the services of the corps in the siege of this city, having been connected only with this and the Signal Corps of the Army of Tennessee… History tells us that when the beloved Stonewall Jackson fell a signal officer caught him in his arms and another bit the dust by his side.

A writer in describing the attempt to blow up the Ironsides [states the following]:

"The new Ironsides was singled for destruction. One of the Signal Corps had been stationed at Battery Gregg, and another at Wagner, each with keen eyes, watching their respective lines of vision. At the electric key stood Captain Langdon Cheves, with eyes bent upon both stations, so that as the flags waved in concert, indicating the fatal moment when the Ironsides should be over the torpedo, to apply the spark and do the deed. Slowly the Ironsides steamed around, delivering one terrific broadside after another. Ever and anon the flag would wig-wag on Gregg, but Wagner was still; then that on Wagner, but Gregg's did not reply, and so it seemed that hours passed. At last both flags waved. The key was touched once and again. There was no answering explosion…."

Such is the tribute paid to the Signal Corps by a disinterested party, one whose record is such that his words of praise would be heard with feelings of pride by any veteran, however brave he may have shown himself on many a hard fought battlefield… Is there one of you who will challenge our right to the grand title of "Veterans of the Lost Cause ?" (*source: www.civilwarhome.com/signalservicecorps)*

Photo by Bill McKern

The Congressman with too many wives

C.C. Bowen was a member of the US House of Representatives from SC and sheriff of Charleston in 1872. Official records note he enlisted in the Confederate army as a captain in the Coast Guard. However they neglect any references to his more colorful activities. He forged the signature of a commanding officer for an extended leave pass in order to go on a gambling spree. He was court-martialed, stripped of his rank and dishonorably discharged. He then tried to arrange the murder of the officer but was arrested. "As fate would have it, Federal (Northern) troops arrived in Charleston and had all prisoners released!"

He resumed his law practice with a focus on pro-bono work for African-Americans and ran on a platform of civil rights and suffrage, which was admirable. His personal peccadilloes however were less so. He married Susan Petigru King in 1870, known as the "ungovernable" daughter of James Louis Petrigu. She wrote short stories and novels whose theme "was disillusionment with marriage. So, when her (first) husband was shot and killed fighting for … the Confederacy, Susan honored his memory by bragging that she had a special relationship with Confederate general P.G.T. Beauregard." Soon after this marriage Tabitha Park, a manager of brothels, announced she was actually his real wife. Bowen offered her a settlement. Then a jury found him not guilty of bigamy. Frances Hicks then appeared and claimed, with evidence, that he had married but never divorced her. This time he was found guilty and sentenced to two years in the Albany penitentiary. Susan however offered herself for sentencing stating Mr. Bowen was "too pure" and when that didn't work forced her way into Pres. Grant's wife's presence and ultimately Bowen received a pardon, ignoring reality. In 1871 Bowen became a SC representative and ran again in 1872. His opponent won the seat but there were so many "frauds and irregularities" on both sides that neither one took the seat. Meanwhile, Bowen was "elected sheriff of Charleston County where he proceeded to distinguish himself with a string of continuous questionable financial activities and suspected bribery of jurors. "His wife Susan died of typhoid fever in December of 1875 and, mysteriously, her will and all of her fine jewelry vanished…" When he died, in 1880 a newspaper wrote that the City of Charleston and the State of South Carolina could rest "happy" that there would not soon be another "political agitator at once so bold, so unscrupulous, and so influential." *(source: 21 Nov 2010 by P. s. Ruckman, Jr, www.pardonpower.com South Carolina)*

Benjamin Line through William Nelson Taft *(cont from p 1)*

Gen. William Nelson Taft was born 5 Mar 1847 in Providence, RI, the son of Nathan and Harriet (Latham) Taft, and died 21 Jun 1889 of nervous prostration in Maysville, Charleston, SC. He married 2 Aug 1881 in Charleston, SC Mary Richardson (Moses) Bowen who was born 12 Sep 1862 in Sumter Co., SC, the daughter of Gov. Franklin J. Jr and Emma Buford (Richardson) Moses. Their two young daughters, Emma and Mary, are buried in the same plot with their father. Their son William Nelson Taft was born two months after his father's death and became a well-known publisher.

William Nelson Taft enlisted 31 Jan 1862 in Providence, RI as a private in Co B RI Regiment 3d Heavy Artillery and was mustered out 26 Aug 1865 Providence, RI. His service brought him to Hilton Head, Morris Island, Edisto Island, and James Island. *(source: trees.ancestry.com/tree/14934880 Doss, Strange, Vaughn, McLelland Family Tree; www.civilwararchive.com/unreghst/unriarty)*

William Nelson Taft, lawyer and state senator from 1876-1880, was listed in cemetery records as a state senator and a carpetbagger! In 1880 he was single living in the household of Christopher Columbus Bowen and his wife, who later married William Nelson Taft. The Wellsboro Agitator 1889 stated "He was for the last quarter of a century one of the most prominent figures in Republican political circles in South Carolina." *(23 Jul 1889 The Wellsboro Agitator, Wellsboro, Tioga, PA from www.joycetice.com/clippings for Tri County p 383).*

After the war he purchased Ashley Hall and his wife inherited Hillsborough from her first husband. After the Ashley River bridge was constructed they sold land to the freedmen and created the towns of Maryville and Ashley. One of the first lots sold was to P. F. Stevens, pastor, which became Maryville's oldest church, the Emanuel AME. Several Charleston documents refer to him as Gen. or Col. William N. Taft , probably based on his service in the National Guard after the war. . *(www.charlestoncity.info/shared/docs/0/09 Historic Context Statement)*

After his death, Mary Richardson (Moses) Bowen Taft married Henry D Geddings, MD, born 27 Jun 1859 in Charleston, SC the son of John F M and Henrietta (Frost) Geddings. He was a Surgeon for the Marine Hospital Services (now the US Public Health Service), and as such they spent time in Naples, Italy, departing on the Ivernia 6 Oct 1912. Articles in JAMA refer to his work in Havana on yellow fever and typhoid fever. *(www.ellisislan.dorg/shipping)*

As the 18 year old daughter of Gov. Franklin J Moses, Jr. Mary Richardson Moses married first Christopher Columbus Bowen, born 5 Jan 1832 Rehoboth, Bristol, MA (VR 5.73), the son of Nathan and Nancy (Hicks) Bowen, and died 23 Jun 1880 in New York, NY, bur St. Lawrence Cemetery, Charleston, SC. C. C. Bowen was admitted to the bar in 1862 and practiced in Charleston, SC. He was a US Congressman, representative from South Carolina, chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, and upon the readmission of SC to the Union he was elected a Republican to the 40th and 41st Congress serving from 1868 -1871. He was a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives 1871-1872 and sheriff of Charleston in 1872. *(wikipedia, Find A Grave)* (see above for more on C. C. Bowen)

Cemetery Inscriptions: Tafts in Lee Valley Cemetery (note: we would love more)

An Email from Patricia Bates provided the following information in response to a recent article:

"My grandfather was George Delos Reckentine, the son of Emma Jane Taft and George Reckentine. I always wondered where the Delos name came from; it's intriguing to know it was a Taft family name. I visited my great-grandfather's gravesite yesterday. He and Emma Taft are buried in the Rome Cemetery, Rome (Oneida County), New York.

"I live in Rome, NY. My home is a block away from the Reckentine family homestead. One of my earliest memories is visiting my great-grandfather on his deathbed in 1957. He died at 97 years in the upstairs bedroom of the family homestead. I still remember the room was dark and the atmosphere was solemn. I was 5 years old; it made quite the lasting impression. "

The Lee Valley Cemetery is about five miles from my home. The following information is from their website:

Taft, Oliver L. died Feb. 17, 1847, ae 47 yrs
Taft, Betsey, wife (of Oliver L. Taft), died Oct. 18, 1845, ae 38 yrs
Taft, Hattie, (dau of Delos & Cornelia A.Taft), died Jun. 25, 1869, ae 11 mo 6 dys
Taft, Mirtea, (child of Delos & Cornelia A. Taft), died Jul. 24, 1871, ae 3 mos
Taft, Deborah, dau of Dan & Martha Taft, died Apr. 21, 1813, aged 16 yrs
Taft, Alonzo, son of D. & M. Taft, died Jul. 10, 1818, ae 6 mo 4 dys
Taft, David, son of D. & M. Taft, died Dec. 9, 1812, ae 6 mo 5 dys
Taft, Vincent died Jun. 19, 1870, aged 63 yrs 2 mos
Taft, Olive, wife of Vincent Taft, died Aug. 17, 1840, aged 36 yrs
Taft, Mary A. Randolph, (dau of Stephen & Lucy Randolph), wife (of Vincent Taft), died Sep. 17, 1891, aged 77 yrs 6mos 8 dys
Taft, Henry R. 1843-1903
Taft, Lucy M., dau of Vincent & Mary A. Taft, died Jul. 8, 1847, aged 1 yr 9 mo
Taft, Lucy, dau of Vincent & Mary A. Taft, died Aug. 13, 1849, aged 1 yr 7 mos
Taft, Jesse M. K., son of Vincent & Mary A. Taft, died Aug. 19, 1851, aged 1 yr 5mo.
Taft, Franklin died Sep. 15, 1849, aged 1 yr 10 mo 21 dys
Taft, Silas died Jul. 25, 1848, aged 34 yrs
Taft, Dan died Jul. 7, 1831, aged 65 yrs
Taft, Silas died Aug. 7, 1813, aged 69 yrs
Taft, Lyman died May 16, 1890, age 85 yrs 5 mos
Taft, Betsey, wife of Lyman Taft, died Jun. 3, 1833, age 24 yrs
Taft, Fanny, wife of Lyman Taft, died Jul. 1, 1882, age 73 yrs
Taft, Sarah A., dau of Anson & Adaline Taft, died Feb. 12, 1852, age 1 yr 4 mos

In Memoriam

Elizabeth (Betsy) Taft Williams

Member Thomas C. Williams, Jr. reported the passing of Marcella Elizabeth (Betsy) Taft Williams of Cameron Park, CA on 3 Oct 2010. She was born 26 Nov 1937 in Omaha, NE the daughter of Gordon Dunmore and Marcella Elizabeth (Foster) Taft, and married 19 Sep 1959 in Alexandria, VA Thomas Chambliss Williams, Jr. They had two children, Marcella Elizabeth and Thomas Chambliss III. Gordon Dunmore Taft was the son of Rev. George Wheaton (Rev. Howard Bailey, Dea. Amos, Peter, Cpl. Henry, Capt. Peter, Capt. Joseph, Robert) Taft.

Thomas tells us "Betsy was very much interested in the Taft Family Association and did her best to keep up with her ancestral history. In addition she was a DAR and Colonial Dame. The family will miss Betsy a great deal and will never recover completely from her passing."

We share your loss and trust her memory will brighten your lives.

If your label reads 2007, you will no longer receive this newsletter. Please contact our treasurer right away, so you don't miss the next newsletter this spring. Thank you.

Taft Family Association Officers

President: still searching
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